Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
South Coast Region

BRIDAL VEIL FALLS PARK
MASTER PLAN

February, 1984

105-04525/

To: Mr. C. J. Velay
Director, Park Programs Branch
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing
Victoria, B. C.

SOUTH COAST REGION
Date: 84-02-23
File: 2-7-4-36

This Master Plan for Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park is herewith submitted for consideration and approval.

Approved: George Trachuk
Regional Director, South Coast Region

Approved: _____
Director, Park Programs Branch

Approved: _____
Executive Director

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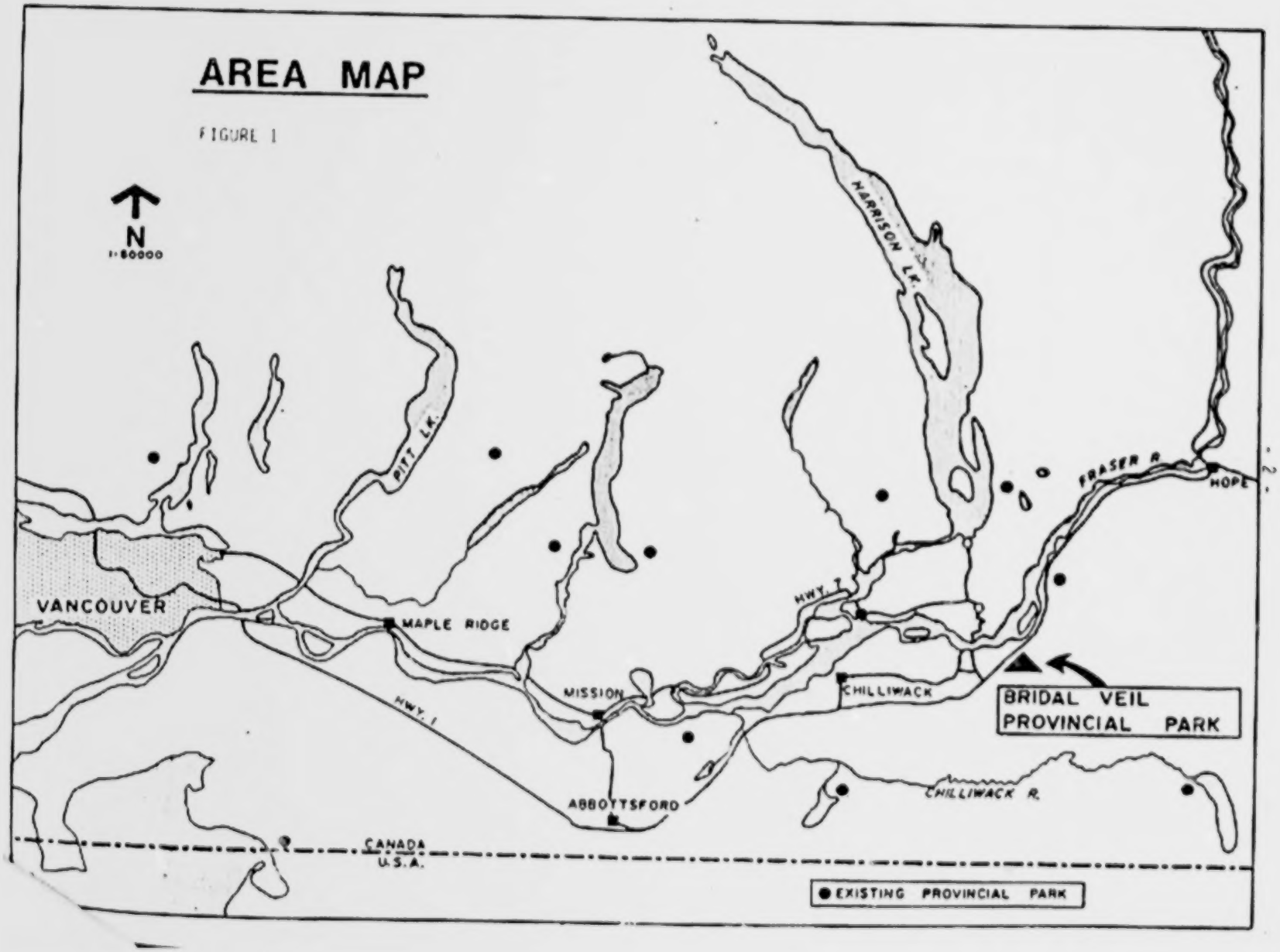
PART I: SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

A. Plan Summary

Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park provides a natural and scenic day use area to the motoring public and fulfills a recreation role by offering park visitors a view of Bridal Veil Falls. This small park, located off the Trans Canada Highway east of Chilliwack, lies adjacent to numerous private sector tourist attractions. As such, the park contributes significantly to promoting tourism and recreation opportunities along this linear corridor.

Present day use activities include picnicking, hiking and viewing the falls. The trail to the falls is a 20 minute walk from the parking lot, offering easy hiking and nature study opportunities for the majority of visitors.

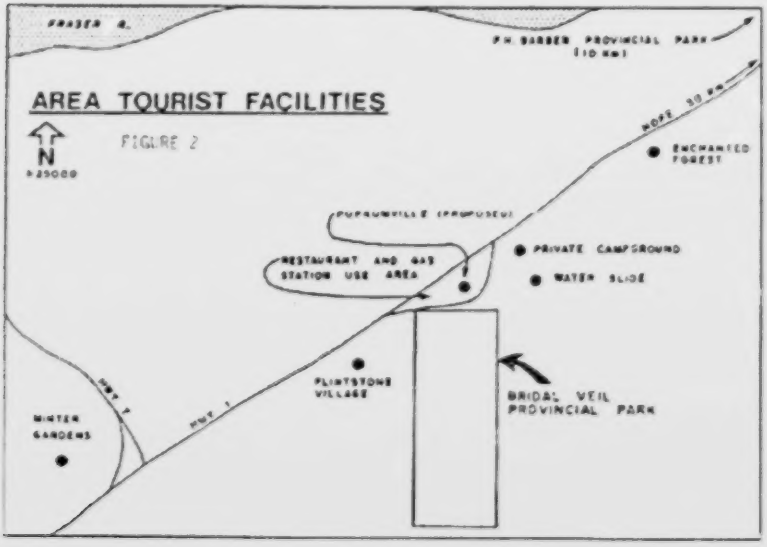
The abundance of tourist amenities along Highway #1 between Hope and Chilliwack highlights the area as a major tourist destination location. This high use, with over 100,000 visitors annually, warrants continued operation of the park and only minor changes to the present management policies. Increased low-maintenance services and trail upgrading for the day use public will be implemented.


AREA MAP
FIGURE 1
N
1:80000
HARRISON LK.
PITT LK.
FRASER R.
HOPE
VANCOUVER
MAPLE RIDGE
HWY. 1
MISSION
CHILLIWACK
BRIDAL VEIL
PROVINCIAL PARK
HWY. 1
CHILLIWACK R.
ABBOTTSFORD
CANADA
U.S.A.
EXISTING PROVINCIAL PARK

B. Regional and Provincial Context

Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park was established in 1965 as a Class 'A', Category 3 park. This 32 hectare park is located in the Fraser River Valley, 16 kilometres east of Chilliwack and directly accessible from Highway #1(Figure 1). The park has long served a rest stop function due to its location relative to Highway #1 and points east and west. It is a one and one-half hour drive from Vancouver, and is therefore an important location for a rest stop.

In the immediate vicinity of the park there are a number of tourist attractions (Figure 2) that provide a variety of activities to visitors including ornamental gardens, water slides and other types of amusement park opportunities.



C. Resources

1. Natural Resources

a) Natural Regions/Regional Landscapes

The park is located within the Coastal Mountain Natural Region and within the Lower Mainland-Skagit Mountains Regional Landscape. This landscape is characterized by low elevation valleys, heavily forested, rounded mountains, and a wet climate.

b) Climate

The climate in the park, as recorded from the Laidlaw Weather Station (20 kilometres east of Bridal Veil Falls Park) is a modified coastal climate with comparatively cool winters and warm summers. The mean temperature range for the months May through September is 12° Celsius to 18° Celsuis, with the maximum temperature occurring in August. The mean temperature range for the months December through March is -1.2° Celsius to 7° Celsius, with the minimum temperature occurring in January.

The months from October through to March produce the highest levels of rainfall, with a mean range of 126 centimetres to 361 centimetres. Snow comprises a small portion of the precipitation during the colder segments of December and January. However, under normal conditions, the low levels and poor quality of the snow do not present an opportunity for winter recreation activities.

Bridal Veil Falls is prone to freezing during colder winters, which results in the formation of an unstable wall of ice. Although this creates a scenic viewing experience, the base of the falls becomes an extremely hazardous area.

c) Physiography

The falls are more closely associated with the Skagit Range of the Cascade Mountains, while the remainder of the park area represents a combination of an ancient floodplain (Fraser River Floodplain) and glacial processes.

The major portion of the use area within the park is located on moderately sloped ground (under 10%), while the terrain closer to the falls becomes excessively sloped. The base of the falls is situated at an elevation of 200 metres and rises 50 to 60 metres to the top of the falls.

The rock outcropping at the falls shows evidence of intense fracturing resulting in periodic rock falls, with the surrounding soils being of a podzolic type.

d) Hydrology

Bridal Veil Falls is the major attraction/feature of the park. Water from Bridal Creek falls 50 to 60 metres and dilates 10 metres over a smoothed rock face, creating the "veil-like" effect of the falls. Bridal Creek extends for 1.8 kilometres, with a width of between one half to one metre. During drier summer months, the volume of water flowing over the falls may decrease significantly, thus reducing the visual quality of the falls. Bridal Creek is non-supportive of fish.

e) Vegetation

The park is situated in the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (Krajina, 1969). The major tree types found in the park include Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata), Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla), Broadleaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum), and Red Alder (Alnus rubra). The understory is dominated by ferns of which the Western Sword Fern (Polystichum munitum) and the Spiny Wood Ferns (Dryopterus austriaca) show prominence. Other major vegetation types of the understory include Devil's Club (Oplopanax horridus), Twisted Stalk (Streptopus amplexifolius), Meadow Rue (Thalictrum occidentale), Youth-on-Age (Tolmlea menziesii). Wild Rose (Rosa, spp.). Waxberry (Symphoricarpos albus), and Parsley Fern (Cryptogramma acrostichoides).

The trees are spaced far apart, and the understory is sparse and low lying. Although this gives a spacious appearance within the trail areas, the canopy is quite dense and results in a shaded trail. The mixed vegetation cover is composed of 60% coniferous and 40% deciduous.

f) Wildlife

The significant wildlife species of Bridal Veil Falls Park are primarily songbirds and small mammals. Songbird species include the varied thrush, black-throated gray warbler, red breasted nuthatch and many more.

The small area and low resource diversity of the park are not conducive to a major wildlife presence, however species which have been known to range within the park include porcupine, Columbia blacktail deer and black bears.

2. Cultural Resources

a) Archaeological

There are no archaeological sites within Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park.

b) Historical

The historical significance of Bridal Veil Falls Park is related to the village of Popkum, which has settlement records dating back to the 1700s.

Popkum is an Indian word (Pop-kum) meaning "puff ball", which grows in the area in profusion.

In the early 1900s, the Ennis homestead was sold to skipper Warnebolt, who proceeded to build the Bridal Falls Chalet. To facilitate the power requirements of the chalet and its heated swimming pool, Bridal Veil Falls was used to generate electricity. Today, however, only traces of the concrete foundation for the power generator can be found.

3. Visual Resources

Bridal Veil Falls is the major viewing experience of the park. The quality of the present viewing location is hampered by trees and its distance from the falls. As well, the dense canopy of the forest results in a heavily shaded viewing area, which puts constraints on photography. The picnicking area is surrounded by dense vegetation which creates a pleasant natural environment and acts as a buffer to the development along Highway #1. This natural woodland setting is focal for visitors during their brief stopovers.

4. Analysis

a) Conservation

Bridal Veil Falls is a feature of scenic value, both to local residents and highway travellers. Its value is enhanced by the park's proximity to Highway #1.

b) Recreation

The location and features of the park make it suited to picnicking, walking and viewing opportunities in association with a major highway and a commercial tourist node.

D. Land Tenures, Occupancy Rights and Jurisdictions

1. Leases and Use Permits: None.
2. Fee Simple Lands: None.
3. Other Tenures: (See Figure 4)
   a) Trans Mountain Pipeline Right-of-Way: Plan 13034, No. 152475C
4. Trespasses: None.
5. Mineral Claims: None.
6. Statutory Jurisdictions:
   a Hunting Regulations: The discharge of firearms is prohibited within the park boundaries
   b) Water Rights: F.W.L. 10804 Gulf Oil of Canada
      F.W.L. 43960 Parks Branch (substitiution of C.W.L. 31305)
7. Major Additions: None.

E. Existing Facilities

Existing park facilities (Figure 3) include:

1. Paved, 50 car capacity parking lot.
2. A four-unit washroom building adjacent to the parking area.
3. One set of pit toilets and a park information shelter.
4. Eighteen Type II picnic tables.
5. Reservoir with tap facilities servicing the picnic area and washroom building.
6. Warning sign at end of Bridal Veil Trail.

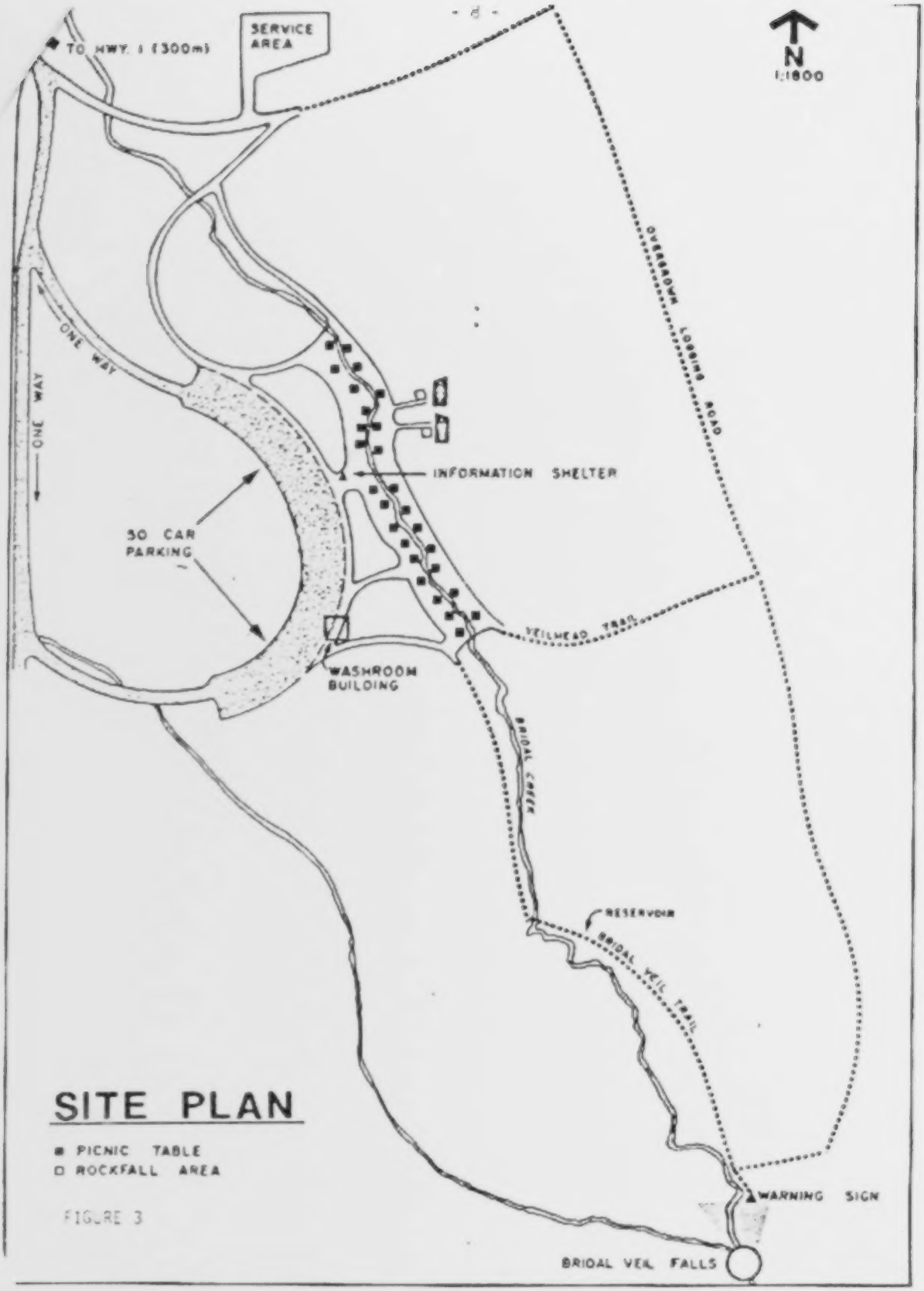

TO HWY. 1 (300m)
SERVICE AREA
N
1:1800
ONE WAY
ONE WAY
OVERBROOK LOOKING ROAD
INFORMATION SHELTER
30 CAR PARKING
WASHROOM BUILDING
PEILHEAD TRAIL
BRIDAL CREEK
RESERVOIR
BRIDAL VEIL TRAIL
WARNING SIGN
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
SITE PLAN
PICNIC TABLE
ROCKFALL AREA

FIGURE 3

F. Market Analysis

1. Existing Use

The majority of the visitors to Bridal Veil Falls Park are highway travellers heading to other destinations who stop for a rest or a picnic/viewing experience. However, the park also serves as a destination picnic site for the local/regional area residents, mainly from the Chilliwack area. Although there is no visitor origin data for this park, other references (Nicolum River Park) suggest that visitors to the area are mainly residents from the Interior and Lower Mainland Regions. The attendance figures (appended) from Bridal Veil Falls Park indicate an average of over 100,000 visitors (31,000 visitor parties) per year, with 80% of these visiting between May and September.

The market area that Bridal Veil Falls Park serves is the Chilliwack area, with Highway #1 being the major source. Since the park does not supply campsite accommodation, there is no market competition with the private campgrounds in the vicinity. Occasionally, campers have been found using the parking lot on an overnight basis, however this is not a permitted use of the park facilities. During the summer weekend periods, the parking and picnicking facilities meet or exceed the park's capacity over 60 of the time.

2. Supply

The following chart (Table 1) identifies the supplier and supply of park and outdoor recreation related services in the area.

3. Demand

Bridal Veil Falls Park offers services which are complementary to those offered by Bridal Falls Camperland and other private campgrounds. There is a variety of recreational opportunities available throughout the area, which enhances the demand-use.

The general demand for Bridal Veil Falls Park may be assessed according to highway traffic volumes and park attendance records. As the park is generally oriented to highway users, the intensity of traffic volumes has a direct relationship on park demand. Ministry of Highways data for Highway #1 (appended) indicates that summer traffic volumes are increasing by 3-5% per year. This suggests an increased demand for park services, however at present, there is no excessive demand on the park facilities and the parking lot capacity is adequate for the majority of the time. As such, there is no indication that the present level of use is exceeding the park's carrying capacity and future demand increase will be easily absorbed.

4. Conclusions

The day use opportunities are major viable services of high demand in the market. The park is oriented to the highway use and demand will grow in direct relation to traffic volumes.

TABLE 1

SUPPLIERS	CAMPING	FISHING	SWIMMING	PICNICKING	HIKING	WINTER RECREATION	VIEWING	GROUP USE	BOATING	DAY USE PARKING
PROVINCIAL PARKS										
Bridal Veil Falls				●	●		●			●
E. C. Manning	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Emory Creek	●	●		●						●
Kawkawa Lake		●	●	●					●	●
Nicolum River	●	●		●						●
Cultus Lake	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PROVINCIAL PARKS TOTAL	846									2190
PRIVATE TOURIST FACILITIES										
Flintstone Land				●						●
Minter Gardens				●			●			●
Tamm's Enchanted Forest				●			●			●
Trans Canada Waterslide				●						●
PRIVATE FACILITIES TOTAL				138						1290
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS										
Bridal Falls Camperland	●									
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS TOTAL	150									

G. Planning Issues

1. The opportunity to view Bridal Veil Falls should be enhanced, made safer and made more accessible.

   The present poor quality of the viewing opportunity encourages the public to traverse a hazardous area for a better view, in spite of the existing warning sign. A proposed trail extension would guide the public around the hazard area to the base of the falls where a viewing platform would be constructed.

Warning sign location near base of falls

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

PART II: THE PLAN

A. Specific Objectives

The general purposes of the park are to provide a rest stop facility along Highway #1, with day use opportunities, and the preservation of Bridal Veil Falls through the following objectives:

* To conserve and present Bridal Veil Falls as a scenic feature of recreation interest.

* To provide picnicking, walking and viewing opportunities in a scenic, woodland setting to both highway travellers and local residents

* To provide information about the features of Bridal Veil Falls Park.

B. Zoning

Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park is divided into two management areas: development zone and natural environment zone (Figure 4).

1. Development Zone

   The purpose of the development zone is to provide a variety of facility oriented recreational opportunities. All the day use areas of the park are therefore included in this zone.

2. Natural Environment Zone

   The purpose of the natural environment zone is to ensure that management actions will maintain or restore if required the natural environment setting of the park. This addresses the park objectives of conserving and preserving the remaining park land.

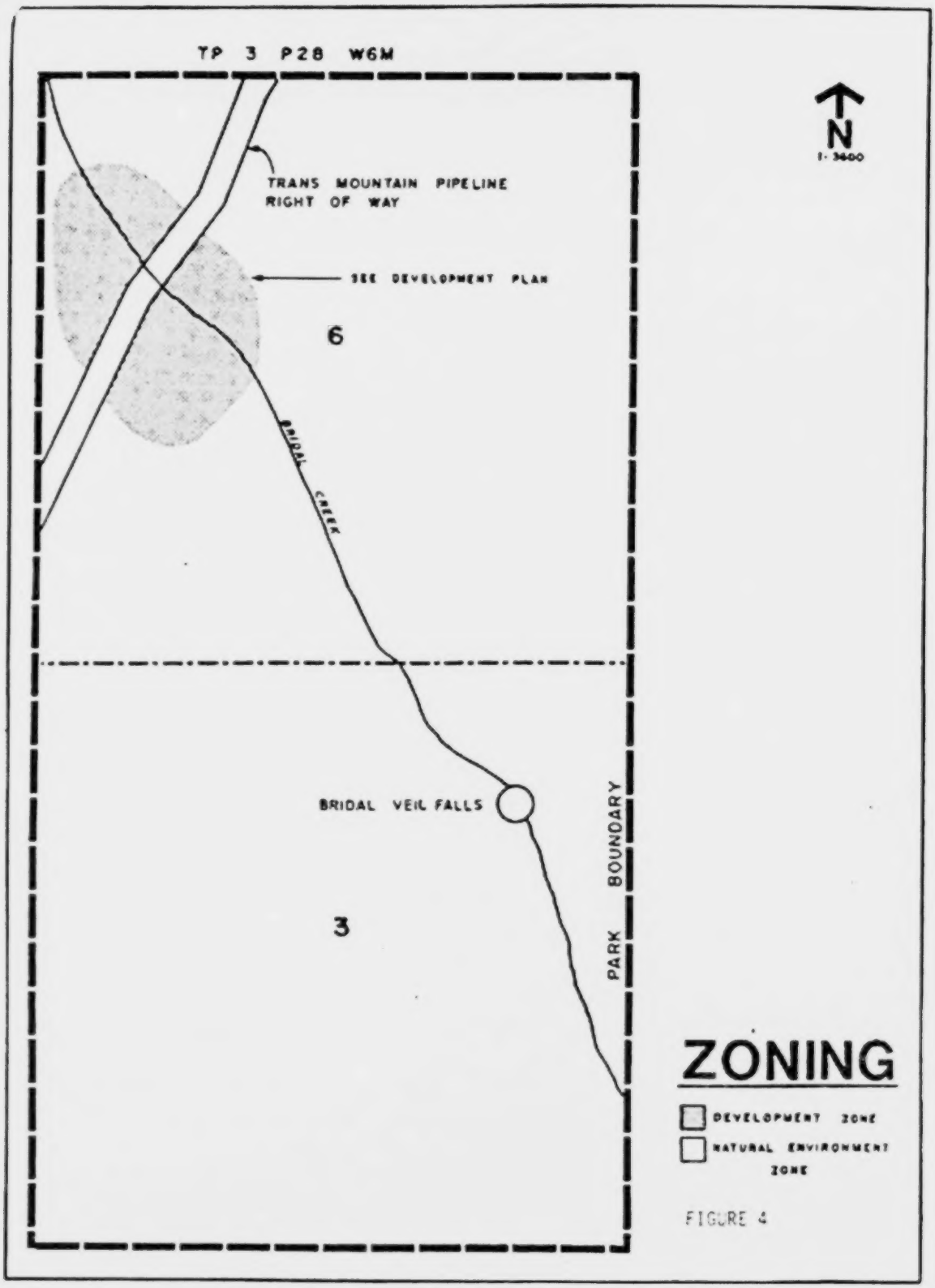

TP 3 P28 W6M
N
1:3600
TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE
RIGHT OF WAY
SEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
6
BRIDAL CREEK
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
3
PARK BOUNDARY
ZONING
DEVELOPMENT ZONE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE

FIGURE 4

C. Development (Figure 5)

Although the park is presently developed, some future enhancement projects are appropriate in consideration of the objectives for the park.

1. Bridal Veil Falls Trail Extension
   The proposed trail extension would be less than 100 metres in length, however the terrain it follows is very steep (20-30%). Therefore, to facilitate access, steps and hand rails will need to be incorporated for roughly one-third of the trail extension in areas of excessively steep terrain, with a viewing platform constructed at the end of the trail. As the majority of the trail users are casual hikers, families and older people, it is recommended that the trail extension be constructed with a high safety factor and easy accessibility. Trail construction may be developed through federal and provincial employment programs.

2. Group Picnicking in Grass Area
   The grass area is becoming increasingly popular for group picnicking which, in future, may result in a need for the addition of picnic tables and a small play area. By developing a multi-use site plan, a conflict with other types of recreational use in this area will be minimized.

D. Management Policies

Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park lies within the Manning Zone of the Fraser Valley District. Its small area, coupled with the limited diversity of resources and good design layout, have made it a relatively simple park to manage. There are very few actions required to manage the natural resources and public uses of the park.

1. Resources

   a) Land

      The land will be managed for intense levels of recreational use. All paths and surfaces will be maintained and improved as required and the existing balance of natural and developed areas will be retained.

   b) Water

      Management of Bridal Creek will be limited to:

      i) directing the flow of water such that the trails are not affected;

      ii) the maintenance of the reinforced creek banks.

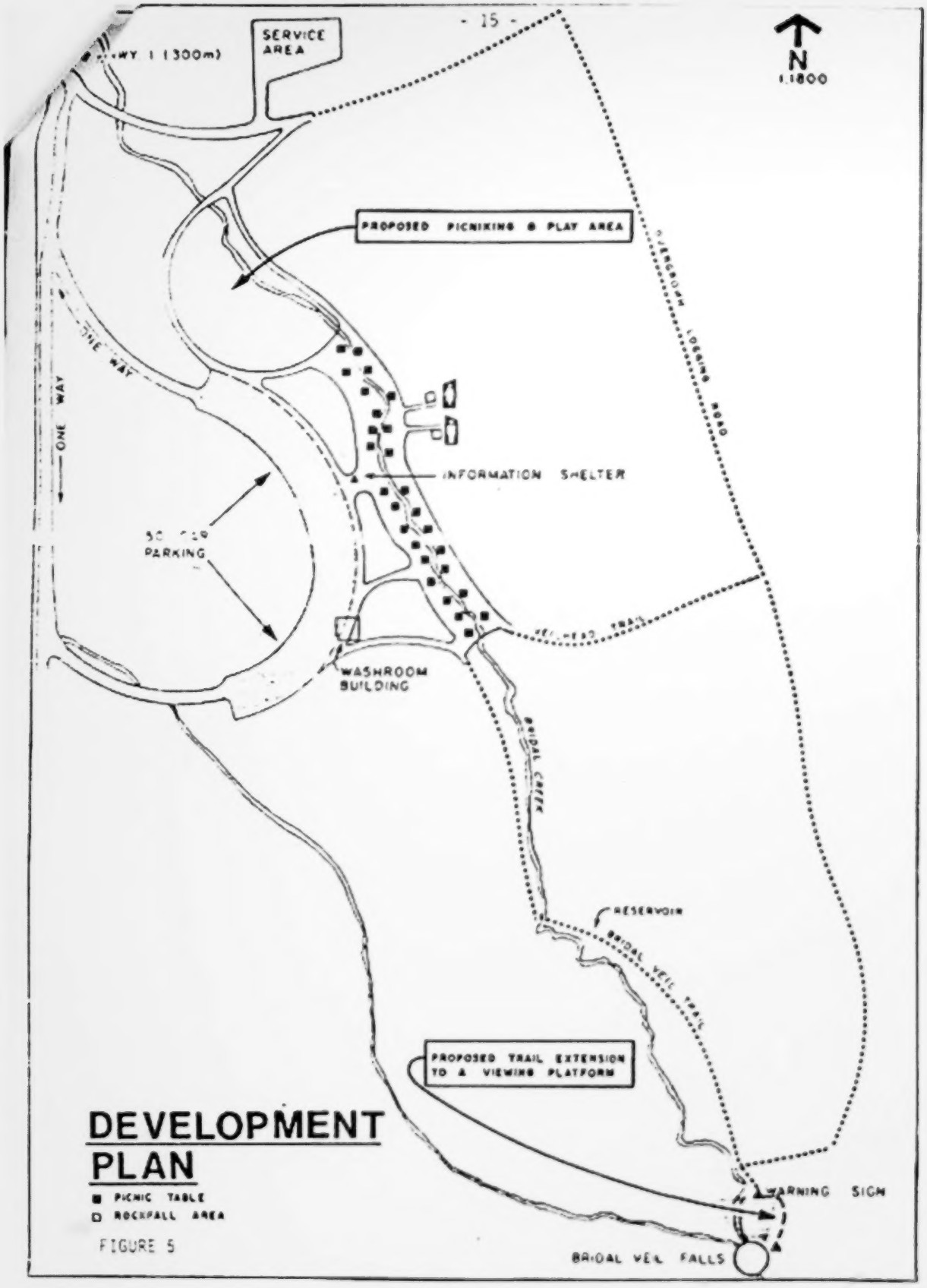

SERVICE AREA
N
1:1800
PROPOSED PICNIKING & PLAY AREA
ONE WAY
ONE WAY
INFORMATION SHELTER
PARKING
WASHROOM BUILDING
RESERVOIR
PROPOSED TRAIL EXTENSION TO A VIEWING PLATFORM
WARNING SIGN
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
PICNIC TABLE
ROCKFALL AREA

FIGURE 5

Bridal Veil Falls from the present trail viewing location

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Popular group picnicking and recreation area

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

c) Vegetation

Trees are being monitored on a continual basis for any hazards that may affect public safety and corrective action will be taken as required. Some smaller trees will be trimmed or eliminated to decrease the shading effect at the picnic sites and improve the viewing of Bridal Veil Falls.

d) Wildlife

Existing wildlife species and habitat will be retained at present levels as much as possible.

e) Cultural

The historical significance of Bridal Veil Falls as it relates to Popkum will be explained on the existing information shelter.

f) Visual

The visual quality of the park will be upgraded in the falls area, while the rest of the park will be maintained in its existing condition.

2. Public Use

a) Recreation

The acceptable types of recreational activity for this park include picnicking, hiking and viewing.

b) Education

The existing visitor services material provided on the information shelter will be expanded to include a trail map of the park and a guide to the interpretation displays. The information will be updated periodically.

E. Marketing and Information Program

Marketing of Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park is through the standard provincial parks map, park brochure and staff referral. Further promotion of the park other than for the early and late summer may encourage levels of use too intense for the park's carrying capacity. As such, no further marketing action is recommended.

APPENDIX

VISITOR ATTENDANCE FOR BRIDAL VEIL FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	TOTAL (ANNUAL)
1979	2842	4052	6966	5148	2146	24,272
1980	3187	4302	7993	7074	3668	32,588
1981	3142	3877	7358	8306	3505	31,031
1982	3902	4808	7490	7721	3682	31,722

MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS SUMMER TRAFFIC VOLUMES
ROUTE NUMBER 1, STATION NO. 17-15, E & W -1
0.8 KILOMETRES EAST OF ROUTE 9

YEAR:	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
	12,000	12,800	9,900	11,200	11,600	12,100	---------	12,900

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